

side door that had been jammed by a ramp. Maneuvering the ramp into place, he unhooked the restraining belts and dragged the wheelchair—and the now terrified woman passenger—from the vehicle. Once free from the smoke, Carrier Polnow located the controls on the chair and engaged them to move the woman to safety.

Acts of bravery and fortitude such as this should not go unnoticed. Carrier Polnow's heroism has led him to be recognized by the National Association of Letter Carriers with the National Central Hero Award. I am privileged and humbled to represent great constituents like Carrier Polnow, and I wanted to take this brief opportunity today, Madam Speaker, to let my colleagues know of his great act of courage.

#### CONGRATULATING ARLENE COOK

#### HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arlene Cook, for her commendable service to the State of Ohio and for earning the William L. Howard Award. This award is the highest a civilian can receive from Ohio's Fire Service, for outstanding service to the fire forces.

As a private citizen, Arlene has dedicated the vast majority of her adult and professional life to the safety and security of the citizens of the 7th Congressional District and Ohio.

Arlene has 24 years of State Service with 3 of those years in Florida and 21 in Ohio. Specifically, she spent 8 years with the former Arson Bureau, which is now the Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau, and 13 years as the administrative assistant to the State Fire Marshal. She also serves as the Administrative Assistant to the State Fire Commission.

Arlene has had a long and distinguished career with the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office, and I congratulate her on receiving the William L. Howard Award, as well as thank her for her dedication to the safety of Ohioans.

For these reasons, Arlene Cook deserves our gratitude and special thanks.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM R. DECOTA

#### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and accomplishments of William R. DeCota, the Director of Aviation for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Bill was one of our Nation's great aviation leaders.

I knew Bill DeCota for the last decade. When I became the Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee I held a hearing at the World Trade Center on July 16, 2001, at the request of Bill DeCota and Neil Levin, Director of the New York Port Authority.

During that visit to New York City, Bill and Neil invited me to tour the three major New York City airports. I knew Neil Levin when he was Legislative Director for Senator Al

D'Amato and I served as Chief of Staff for Senator Paula Hawkins. After a hearing in the Port Authority chambers, they hosted my wife, Pat, and me at a luncheon in a Port Authority conference room adjacent to the Windows on the World Restaurant at the top of the World Trade Center.

Levin and Port Authority employee, who assisted with the hearing in July, were in that very same conference room in the World Trade Center on September 11, and lost their lives.

As fate would have it, Bill DeCota was at a conference in Montreal, Canada, on September 11th and survived the terrible events of that day.

In the ensuing years, Bill and I often talked about the randomness of life. It is therefore striking that Bill died suddenly last Friday, September 11, 2009, eight years later.

It must be noted that in the months and years after 9/11, Bill's stewardship of the world's busiest airport system was truly the greatest of any airport director.

Bill joined the Port Authority as a financial analyst in 1982 and quickly rose through the ranks, serving as Manager of the Aviation Department's Business and Financial Services Division, Assistant Director of Aviation for Business and Properties, and Deputy Director of Aviation.

He was named Director of Aviation in December 1999. As Director, Bill was responsible for John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International, and LaGuardia Airports, and later Stewart Airport—which together comprise the world's largest aviation system. He was also responsible for Teterboro Airport.

In that capacity, Bill oversaw the largest airport improvement program in U.S. history.

Bill was recognized as an expert in aviation and was an active advocate for airport issues on Capitol Hill and in the business community.

His expertise in managing airport congestion through prudent airport expansion, cutting-edge technologies and demand management was widely recognized in the aviation industry.

Bill was also strongly committed to the community and was actively involved in numerous service organizations.

He was a member of the Advisory Board of CUNY's Aviation Institute at York College, President of the Queens Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and a member of the Board of the Regional Business Partnership, the Airport Development Council and the Business Advisory Council of SUNY Farmingdale, among others.

Bill received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, and an M.B.A. from the University of Georgia.

He resided in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

True to how he lived his life, funeral arrangements for Bill will be private. His family requests that contributions in his memory be made to Elijah's Promise, New Brunswick, New Jersey, which is a nonprofit organization that runs a soup kitchen and culinary school to train local people for food-service careers.

My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's family. Bill DeCota and his expertise and contributions to aviation will be greatly missed.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$1,000,000 is necessary to address the challenges of sample preparation and detection/diagnosis of biological warfare agents. The ASP technology has the ability to process both environmental and clinical biological samples for subsequent analysis on both nucleic acid and/or immunoassay detection/diagnostic systems, and when mated to currently fielded and new detection systems will enhance warfighter capability to detect and identify hundreds of potential targets simultaneously within a single analysis on a single detection/diagnostic platform.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF VIETNAM WAR VETERANS EVENT

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 12, 2009, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman from Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, sponsored a remarkable event at the Truman Library. This event was in honor of those who fought in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Well over 1,000 veterans attended. The Honorable DENNIS MOORE, Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District, spoke, and yours truly had an opportunity to deliver a message of gratitude to the Vietnam veterans present. The keynote speaker was Major General (Ret.) Robert H. Scales, former commandant of the U.S. Army War College. His address was very well received by the veterans in the audience. The address is as follows:

Mr. Skelton, Mr. Cleaver, distinguished guests and, most importantly, fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to see my comrades in arms assembled here so many years after we shared our experiences in war.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you I didn't kill innocents, I killed the enemy; I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you I was troubled that, unlike my father, I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also like you I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and one percent pure abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all our fellow citizens would imagine that fifty years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our consciousness. Looking over this assembly it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why? If this war was so terrible why are we here? It's my privilege

today to try to answer that question not only for you, brother veterans, but maybe for a wider audience for whom, fifty years on, Vietnam is as strangely distant as World War One was to our generation.

Vietnam is seared in our memory for the same reason that wars have lingered in the minds of soldiers for as long as wars have been fought.

From Marathon to Mosul young men and now women have marched off to war to learn that the cold fear of violent death and the prospects of killing another human being heighten the senses and sear these experiences deeply and irrevocably into our souls and linger in the back recesses of our minds.

After Vietnam we may have gone on to thrilling lives or dull; we might have found love or loneliness, success or failure. But our experiences have stayed with us in brilliant Technicolor and with a clarity undiminished by time. For whatever primal reason war heightens the senses. When in combat we see sharper, hear more clearly and develop a sixth sense about everything around us.

Remember the sights? I recall sitting in the jungle one bright moonlit night marveling on the beauty of Vietnam. How lush and green it was; how attractive and gentle the people, how stoic and unmoved they were amid the chaos that surrounded them.

Do you remember the sounds? Where else could you stand outside a bunker and listen to the cacophonous mix of Jimmy Hendrix, Merle Haggard and Jefferson Airplane? Or how about the sounds of incoming? Remember it wasn't a boom like in the movies but a horrifying noise like a passing train followed by a crack and the whistle of flying fragments. Remember the smells? The sharpness of cordite, the choking stench of rotting jungle and the tragic sweet smell of enemy dead. . . .

I remember the touch, the wet, sticky sensation when I touched one of my wounded soldiers one last time before the medevac rushed him forever from our presence but not from my memory, and the guilt I felt realizing that his pain was caused by my inattention and my lack of experience.

Even taste is a sense that brings back memories. Remember the end of the day after the log bird flew away leaving mail, C rations and warm beer? Only the first sergeant had sufficient gravitas to be allowed to turn the C ration cases over so that all of us could reach in and pull out a box on the unlabeled side hoping that it wasn't going to be ham and lima beans again.

Look, forty years on I can forgive the guy who put powder in our ammunition so foul that it caused our M-16s to jam. I'm OK with helicopters that arrived late. I'm over artillery landing too close and the occasional canceled air strike. But I will never forgive the Pentagon bureaucrat who in an incredibly lame moment thought that a soldier would open a can of that green, greasy, gelatinous goo called ham and lima beans and actually eat it.

But to paraphrase that iconic war hero of our generation, Forrest Gump, "Life is like a case of C Rations, you never know what you're going to get." Because for every box of ham and lima beans there was that rapturous moment when you would turn over the box and discover the bacchanalian joy of peaches and pound cake. It's all a metaphor for the surreal nature of that war and its small pleasures . . . those who have never known war cannot believe that anyone can find joy in hot beer and cold pound cake. But we can . . .

Another reason why Vietnam remains in our consciousness is that the experience has made us better. Don't get me wrong. I'm not arguing for war as a self-improvement course. And I realize that war's trauma has

damaged many of our fellow veterans physically, psychologically and morally. But recent research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by behavioral scientists has unearthed a phenomenon familiar to most veterans: that the trauma of war strengthens rather than weakens us (They call it Post Traumatic Growth). We know that a near death experience makes us better leaders by increasing our self-reliance, resilience, self image, confidence and ability to deal with adversity. Combat veterans tend to approach the future wiser, more spiritual and content with an amplified appreciation for life. We know this is true. It's nice to see that the human scientists now agree.

I'm proud that our service left a legacy that has made today's military better. Sadly Americans too often prefer to fight wars with technology. Our experience in Vietnam taught the nation the lesson that war is inherently a human not a technological endeavor. Our experience is a distant whisper in the ear of today's technology wizards that firepower is not sufficient to win, that the enemy has a vote, that the object of war should not be to kill the enemy but to win the trust and allegiance of the people and that the ultimate weapon in this kind of war is a superbly trained, motivated, and equipped soldier who is tightly bonded to his buddies and who trusts his leaders.

I've visited our young men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan several times. On each visit I've seen first hand the strong connection between our war and theirs. These are worthy warriors who operate in a manner remarkably reminiscent of the way we fought so many years ago.

The similarities are surreal. Close your eyes for a moment and it all comes rushing back. . . . In Afghanistan I watched soldiers from my old unit, the 101st Airborne Division, as they conducted daily patrols from firebases constructed and manned in a manner virtually the same as those we occupied and fought from so many years ago. Every day these sky soldiers trudge outside the wire and climb across impossible terrain with the purpose as one sergeant put it "to kill the bad guys, protect the good guys and bring home as many of my soldiers as I can." Your legacy is alive and well. You should be proud.

The timeless connection between our generation and theirs can be seen in the unity and fighting spirit of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Again and again, I get asked the same old question from folks who watch soldiers in action on television: why is their morale so high? Don't they know the American people are getting fed up with these wars? Don't they know Afghanistan is going badly? Often they come to me incredulous about what they perceive as a misspent sense of patriotism and loyalty.

I tell them time and again what every one of you sitting here today, those of you who have seen the face of war, understand: it's not really about loyalty. It's not about a belief in some abstract notion concerning war aims or national strategy. It's not even about winning or losing. On those lonely firebases as we dug through C ration boxes and drank hot beer we didn't argue the righteousness of our cause or ponder the latest pronouncements from McNamara or Nixon or Ho Chi Minh for that matter. Some of us might have trusted our leaders or maybe not. We might have been well informed and passionate about the protests at home or maybe not. We might have groused about the rich and privileged who found a way to avoid service but we probably didn't. We might have volunteered for the war to stop the spread of global communism or maybe we just had a failing semester and got swept up in the draft.

In war young soldiers think about their buddies. They talk about families, wives and girlfriends and relate to each other through very personal confessions. For the most part the military we served with in Vietnam did not come from the social elite. We didn't have Harvard degrees or the pedigree of political bluebloods. We were in large measure volunteers and draftees from middle and lower class America. Just as in Iraq today we came from every corner of our country to meet in a beautiful yet harsh and forbidding place, a place that we've seen and experienced but can never explain adequately to those who were never there.

Soldiers suffer, fight and occasionally die for each other. It's as simple as that. What brought us to fight in the jungle was no different than the motive force that compels young soldiers today to kick open a door in Ramadi with the expectation that what lies on the other side is either an innocent huddling with a child in her arms or a fanatic insurgent yearning to buy his ticket to eternity by killing the infidel. No difference. Patriotism and a paycheck may get a soldier into the military but fear of letting his buddies down gets a soldier to do something that might just as well get him killed.

What makes a person successful in America today is a far cry from what would have made him a success in the minds of those assembled here today. Big bucks gained in law or real estate, or big deals closed on the stock market made some of our countrymen rich. But as they have grown older they now realize that they have no buddies. There is no one who they are willing to die for or who is willing to die for them. William Manchester served as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II and put the sentiment precisely right when he wrote: "Any man in combat who lacks comrades who will die for him, or for whom he is willing to die is not a man at all. He is truly damned."

The Anglo Saxon heritage of buddy loyalty is long and frightfully won. Almost six hundred years ago the English king, Henry V, waited on a cold and muddy battlefield to face a French army many times his size. Shakespeare captured the ethos of that moment in his play Henry V. To be sure Shakespeare wasn't there but he was there in spirit because he understood the emotions that gripped and the bonds that brought together both king and soldier. Henry didn't talk about national strategy. He didn't try to justify faulty intelligence or ill formed command decisions that put his soldiers at such a terrible disadvantage. Instead, he talked about what made English soldiers fight and what in all probably would allow them to prevail the next day against terrible odds. Remember this is a monarch talking to his men:

"This story shall the good man teach his son;  
From this day ending to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remembered;  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he today that sheds his blood with me  
shall be my brother;  
And gentlemen in England (or America) now a-bed  
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,  
And hold their manhood's cheap whiles any speaks  
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

You all here assembled inherit the spirit of St Crispin's day. You know and understand the strength of comfort that those whom you protect, those in America now a-bed, will never know. You have lived a life of self awareness and personal satisfaction that those who watched you from afar in this

country who "hold their manhood cheap" can only envy.

I don't care whether America honors or even remembers the good service we performed in Vietnam. It doesn't bother me that war is an image that America would rather ignore. It's enough for me to have the privilege to be among you. It's sufficient to talk to each of you about things we have seen and kinships we have shared in the tough and heartless crucible of war.

Some day we will all join those who are serving so gallantly now and have preceded us on battlefields from Gettysburg to Wanat. We will gather inside a firebase to open a case of C rations with every box peaches and pound cake. We will join with a band of brothers to recount the experience of serving something greater than ourselves. I believe in my very soul that the almighty reserves a corner of heaven, probably around a perpetual lager where some day we can meet and embrace... all of the band of brothers throughout the ages to tell our stories while envious standers-by watch and wonder how horrific and incendiary the crucible of violence must have been to bring such a disparate assemblage so close to the hand of God.

Until we meet there thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice, God bless you all and God bless this great nation. . . .

#### SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. WAMP Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 260, a resolution supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States. I thank Congressman STEVE COHEN for introducing this legislation, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor.

The infant mortality rate provides the best sense of the health of a country, and unfortunately, the U.S. ranks 29th in the world in this category. That means twenty-eight other countries have better success than us in delivering and maintaining the health of a child during its first year of development. Needless to say, this is a disturbing sign, and something we as a nation must address.

Although this is a national problem, it unfortunately hits close to home for my state of Tennessee. Nowhere in the country is the infant mortality rate higher than in Memphis. While devastating, the issue has inspired St. Jude's Hospital in-depth research on infant mortality, and this has led to discoveries about the variety of factors that affect infant mortality.

My hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee, also struggles with a similar sad phenomenon known as low birth weight (LBW) which can, and usually does, lead to the death of children under one year of age. A baby is considered to have a low birth weight if it is less than five pounds at birth. Of the twenty-eight zip codes in Hamilton County which encompasses Chattanooga, twenty-seven have high rates of LBW, meaning Hamilton County has a higher percentage of LBW than some third-world nations. Researchers are had at work to pinpoint the actual cause.

Madam Speaker, our nation's high infant mortality rate is one of the most significant

issues facing the health and future of our country, and this resolution recognizes the exceptional work that is being done to address it.

I urge all Members to support the passage of this important resolution.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO JOYCE ERNESTINE WESTERHOLD

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Joyce Ernestine Westerhold, the Region 4 Outstanding Older Worker of the Year. As a homemaker, school teacher, and library assistant, Mrs. Westerhold has dedicated her life to serving others.

She began her career as a school teacher in 1948 and served the students of Missouri's public schools for a total of 26 years. While teaching various subjects in several public schools, Mrs. Westerhold remained active in the state teacher's organization and the Parent-Teachers Association.

After a distinguished teaching career, Mrs. Westerhold began working as a library assistant with University of Central Missouri. During her 24 years with the University's library system, her job was redesigned three times and she saw many technological changes. As the times changed, so did she.

While this award is in recognition of Mrs. Westerhold's 50 years of full-time employment as a teacher and library assistant, her work as a dedicated wife and mother cannot go unnoticed. She and her husband of 60 years have raised two lovely children.

Madam Speaker, Ernestine Westerhold has distinguished herself throughout her careers with Missouri public schools and the University of Central Missouri. I trust that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating her for this great contribution to Missouri and our country.

#### WIND ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2009*

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3165, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009. I commend my colleague from New York, Representative TONKO for authoring this important legislation which moves our Nation further down the path toward energy independence.

As a representative of west central Illinois, I have the privilege of personally witnessing the development of our nation's energy future. Various companies, community colleges, counties, cities, and others in my congressional district are actively pursuing initiatives to develop and produce alternative sources of energy, and educate the new work force for this emerging field. In addition to the great work being done with biofuels, my district is

also home to several wind energy projects, which is why I am happy we are considering H.R. 3165 on the House floor today.

As its name implies, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009 would provide much-needed funding for the research and development of technologies to advance wind turbine design, create better control systems and increase production capacity of energy output. The bill would also authorize \$200 million annually for a new program aimed at developing technologies to improve the efficiency of wind turbines while reducing production costs.

Not only does this legislation have the potential to establish a vibrant wind energy industry in the United States, but it could also lead to the creation of thousands of jobs in the manufacturing and engineering of wind turbines, turbine components, and turbine maintenance.

Additionally, this investment in wind energy would address the looming energy crisis by capturing and harnessing a naturally produced and renewable alternative to fossil fuels. A recent report published by the Department of Energy confirmed the technical feasibility of producing an estimated 20 percent of America's energy from wind turbines by the year 2030. This important legislation would provide the funding we need for the development of the technologies to reach this goal.

We have known for decades that the United States must turn to renewables and other forms of clean energy to combat climate change, achieve energy independence from unstable foreign nations, gain greater control over the cost of energy sources, and ensure energy security. Representative TONKO's bill would provide our country the tools needed to help facilitate this transition.

The United States is poised to become the worldwide leader in clean energy development and production—we have the ingenuity, the will, the workers, and the resources. H.R. 3165 would ensure that we lead the next breakthrough in clean energy technology.

Again, I thank my friend from New York and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the Wind Energy Research and Development Act.

#### STATEN ISLAND CORPS OF THE SALVATION ARMY

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Staten Island Corps of the Salvation Army on their 125 years of unyielding service to the people of Staten Island. Over their many years they have fed the hungry, clothed the cold and supported those in need during disasters.

Founded in London's East End in 1865 by William Booth in order to assist the poor and needy regardless of age, sex, color or creed, they now have expanded their services to 119 countries.

They have continued to live out the same mission for the neediest Staten Islanders since their commencement on February 3, 1884. The Salvation Army operates two centers on Staten Island and has been able to provide vital services from food pantries to after school activities, as well as music instruction.